

New Jersey and Pennsylvania Women's Great Work for National Army

Trenton and Philadelphia Unite to Solve Problem of Social Welfare at Camp Dix and Camp Meade

By Frances Fisher Byers

Who ever heard of Wanaque-Midvale, or New Egypt, or Brown's Mills, or Sykesville? "No one," the reader says to himself, with a smile and a feeling of unconscious pity for the inhabitants thereof.

As a matter of fact, the joke, if there be one, is on the reader, or those who have had the opportunity to visit these remote hamlets, many so small that the citizens, like those of the first named, have been forced to count themselves as one village in order to have a postoffice; for these are names destined to be remembered as having contributed to the comfort and well-being of one of the greatest military cantonments in the world—Camp Dix, covering eighteen square miles in lower New Jersey.

Goldfields, Nev.; Gardner, Okla., even greater New York, have been slow of growth compared to the sudden prosperity of the villages within the five-mile limit of this city, which grew in a month to number sixty thousand souls, and which has sprung up "overnight" a few miles south of the state capital.

The situation is epitomized in the remarks made by a one-time tiller of the soil with whom I fell into conversation at Wrightstown, just outside the entrance to the camp. A month ago the "town" consisted of two houses, a general store and a barn at the cross roads. To-day it boasts "eighty buildings, including the "Pig and Whistle" restaurant, the Washington Inn, and several stores of odd merchandise.

Farmer Rejoices in Increased Values

"This, here, is great luck, for sure," said he. "The gubment has took my farm an' my ol' house—that's it, 'way down yonder," pointing to a speck on the horizon, "hundred acre, brook in cow pasture—"

I stopped his flood of eloquence by telling him he ought to have been a real estate agent.

"Me?" And he eyed me scornfully. "Ain't that like a woman, now. My woman she tells me the same things. Nothin' doin'; no, sir-ee, not while I kin git away with this 'ere," and he jerked his thumb toward a store front gaudily decorated with flags of the Allied nations and tobacco signs. "Why, this 'ere company what's hirin' me to run the ranch fer 'em is payin' ten thousand this 'ere year for th' cor-

cannot speak too highly of the work of Herbert P. Lansdale, the Y. M. C. A. general camp secretary, and his associates, Joseph T. Alling and Olaf Gates, and what they are accomplishing."

Mrs. E. T. Stotesbury, of Philadelphia, who, with characteristic generosity, has given a large sum outright for the hostess house at Camp Dix to be run by the Y. W. C. A., is one of the public spirited women of the country



Members of the Motor Messenger Service, of Philadelphia. Left to right: Miss Snowden, Miss McIntire, 1st Lieut. Delaware Division; Capt. Elwyn, Adj. Wright, Quartermaster Churchman, Corporal Crothers, Lieut. Stokes.

Another evidence that Philadelphians are not forgetful of the vast encampment north of them is shown by the services rendered to a number of the companies that were transferred to Camp Dix by the Motor Messenger Service of Philadelphia, the purpose of which is to aid the government of the United States in the performance of the work of its military and naval forces in Philadelphia and vicinity. It furnishes the motor cars of members and their services as drivers without cost. It actively cooperates with the Emergency Aid, the Red Cross, the National League for Woman's Service and the Navy League. Since the service was organized, in April, 1917, it has furnished on an average each month 380 cars.

The following national organizations of men and women or both are operating actively in Philadelphia, as in Trenton, Washington, Baltimore and other cities which are adjacent to large

\$4,000,000 Camps Fund Drive Begun

Money Asked for Recreation for National Army by War and Navy Departments' Joint Commission

"Give us \$3 for every man stationed at an army or navy training camp in this country, and we will guarantee that when those men reach France it will be their efficiency, their morale and their fighting spirit unimpaired."

This is the slogan with which the War and Navy Departments' Commission on Training Camp Activities starts on its nation-wide drive for \$4,000,000. The joint commission has already done excellent work at many of the new training camps and as soon as the \$4,000,000 fund is complete will begin an even more vigorous campaign to change the environment of the military camps and to provide for every man of the new National Army clean, wholesome recreation for the otherwise dreary hours when he is off duty.

Camp Upton, at Yaphank, Long Island, where New York's drafted men are getting ready for "over there," will be one of the first recipients of the commission's attention. Much the same sort of work is to be put under way at Newport, where 10,000 young men are stationed at the naval training camp.

The task of raising New York State's share of the \$4,000,000 for recreation has been assigned to the Playground and Recreation Association of America, with New York City headquarters in the Tribune Building. It is this association which turned a swampy wilderness adjoining the Newport training camp into a well equipped recreation ground for Uncle Sam's fighting forces.

"Blind Tigers" All Gone
The conditions surrounding this camp had become a national scandal. Although the Newport authorities were finally aroused into action and the "blind tigers," poolrooms and places of even worse repute were put out of business, there was nothing left to take their place.

It was then the Playground Association sent one of its field representatives, William Ashe, to see what could be done. Mr. Ashe looked about him for opportunities. He found as the only available spot for what he had in mind Coddington Point, a tract of 137 acres, opposite the naval training grounds, but unconnected with them or the city. Since it was inaccessible to town because of an intervening marsh, Mr. Ashe went to the owner with his request. He explained that inasmuch as the naval training grounds were immediately opposite his land the government might eventually buy him out if his property were properly developed so as to show its possibilities. The owner was not slow in grasping the

Mrs. H. C. Stull, president of the Y. W. C. A., Trenton, N. J., who has been for many years a leader in progressive movements throughout the state.

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Mrs. E. Furman Hooper, chairman of the Hospitality Committee of the Y. W. C. A. Hostess House at Camp Dix.



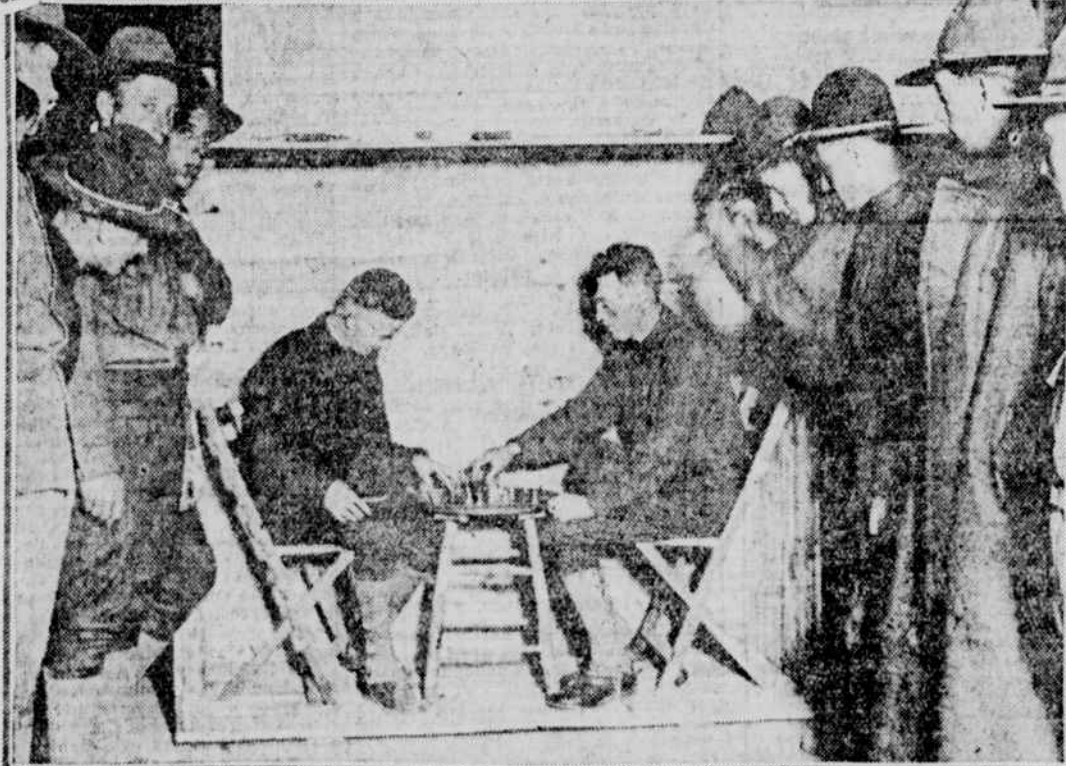
Mrs. E. T. Stotesbury, with members of her adopted family at the famous United Service Club, which she founded. Note the sign: "Open Day and Night." Centre left—Commander Payne, in charge of the club; third from right, "Teddy Maloney," the ex-prize fighter, host of the club.



Miss Wolverton, secretary of the Y. W. C. A., Trenton, N. J., who is especially interested in recreation for Camp Dix.



Miss Hannah Longmore, secretary of Trenton Welfare Association.



A new use for a piano box. A quiet game of chess in the Young Men's Christian Association at Camp Dix, New Jersey.



Members of a New Jersey regiment receiving gifts of home-made cake and candy from their sweethearts and wives at Camp Dix, New Jersey.

It is estimated that ten thousand men from Pennsylvania alone are now in Camp Meade, between Baltimore and Washington.

Naturally the efforts of the women of the City of Brotherly Love, as well as those of Baltimore and Washington, are directed toward this great encampment, but Mrs. Stotesbury believes that the women of her city should stretch out a helping hand to each cantonment and form a connecting link between the two in the national chain of military centers.

The site of the hostess house is on one of the new macadam avenues of the camp, not far from Y. M. C. A. building No. 1. The building is two stories high, and an unusual feature will be the living quarters for the women who will carry on the work, and the nursery, which will meet a real need of the visitors to the camp.

"Trench and Camp," an official newspaper published under the auspices of the National War Work Council of the Y. M. C. A., says, in speaking of this, in an editorial:

"The hostess house is doing a really big thing for the soldiers. Its primary purpose is to provide a pleasant and congenial place where all women vis-

itors may meet their friends and relatives of the army. Under the women's management will be brought about an atmosphere of home and civilization that the best efforts of the Y. M. C. A. are having a hard time to produce. In the nursery the little sons and daughters may be spanked or rocked to sleep as the occasion demands without being bothered by criticizing eyes."

The house staff will consist of five women, each of whom will have special duties. Miss Grace Shepherd, of New Jersey, will be executive head; Miss Agnes Davis is hostess; Mrs. Katharine Boshart, financial secretary. Besides

the regular staff inside the camp, three women with headquarters at the house will have charge of the organization of girls' clubs in the surrounding towns—Miss Elizabeth Curtis, Miss Marion Clark and Miss Anne Carson—Wrightstown, Pemberton, New Egypt, Pointville, Brown's Mills, Bordertown and Burlington.

The New Jersey State Suffrage Association is planning to have a canteen and hostess house at Wrightstown, and the National League for Woman's Service will erect one at New Egypt. The Army and Navy Commission on Training Camp Activities, of which

Raymond B. Fosdick is the head, under the local leadership of D. P. Falconer and Mr. Osterhus at Trenton, is doing effective work in cooperation with all the state and city organizations. Among these are the Catholic Societies, the National League for Woman's Service, the Red Cross, the Trenton Welfare Association, the Girls' Friendly Societies, the Young Women's Hebrew Association, the Contemporary Club and the Girls' Patriotic League, which works through existing organizations, whose members go out to the factories, schools and stores to get help in patriotic service.

The work of the Emergency Aid of Pennsylvania, the French War Relief Committee, and the Belgian Relief will be presented in next Sunday's Tribune, also the various clubs and lines of service being conducted by Mrs. George W. C. Drexel, Mrs. Bayard Henry, Mrs. Cornelius Stevenson, Mrs. E. T. Stotesbury and others.

The National Council, the woman's committee of the National Council of Defense, the Red Cross, the War and Navy Departments on Training Camp Activities, the National League for Woman's Service, the Young Women's Christian Association, the Young Men's Christian Association, the Knights of Columbus, the Young Men's Hebrew Association and the Young Women's Hebrew Association.

point, and agreed to lease the land for \$1 a year.

After having proved the accessibility of Coddington Point, Mr. Ashe raised \$1,500 more, which he spent for renovating an old house on the property. By building pontoon bridges across the swamp Coddington Point was made available for drilling purposes, and is now being used by the naval authorities daily in that way.

All this was accomplished with the expenditure of about \$5,000. The original expectation was that the recreation grounds would be used by from 300 to 400 men daily. Not a day passes now in which there are not between 3,000 and 4,000 men on the grounds.

At most of the training camps the expenditure for similar work will have to be much greater, but the work at Newport is typical of what the commission is doing or will do at all the cantonments when it has raised its \$4,000,000.

The following is a fac-simile letter written by President Wilson to Joseph Lee, a member of the War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities, and president of the Playground and Recreation Association of America:

The White House, Washington, Aug. 16, 1917.

Mr. Dear Mr. Lee:

"Mr. Fosdick has told me of the excellent work of the Playground and Recreation Association of America in conjunction with the War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities, and I am writing to express my keen appreciation of the value of this unique and excellent service.

"The spirit with which our soldiers leave America and their efficiency on the battle fronts of Europe will be vitally affected by the character of the environment surrounding our military training camps. I understand that your association finds it necessary to raise funds to carry on your work, and I earnestly hope that you will be successful in this endeavor.

"Perhaps the local Chambers of Commerce in the cities and towns throughout the country could be appealed to with entire propriety to assist you in this matter. In any event, let me assure you of my warm support.

"Sincerely yours,

WOODROW WILSON.

"Mr. Joseph Lee, 101 Tremont St., Boston, Mass."